

PROCTOR'S REPORT.
Remarkable Statement Made in the Federal Senate.
HIS OBSERVATIONS IN CUBA.
Every Element of Sensationalism Studiously Avoided in What He Says.
A HANDSOME COMPLIMENT TO LEE.
His Ability, High Character, and Courage; His Tact and Courtesy.
MISERY OF THE "RECONCENTRADOS."
Deaths from Starvation Not Uncommon Among Them.
SUPERIORITY OF CUBAN TO SPANIARD
This a New Thing to Proctor, but a Fact Beyond Question.
THE STRENGTH OF THE INSURGENTS.
They Have Thirty Thousand Men in the Field; Some in Every Province.
CUBA MOST MISRULED OF LANDS.
Spanish Do Not Want Autonomy, and Natives Say It Has Been Offered Too Late—American National Quarantine—Free Rural Mail Delivery.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 17.—Senator Proctor, of Vermont, who returned last Sunday from an extended trip to and through the island of Cuba, this afternoon made a statement in the Senate of his observations on the island.

From many view-points the statement was remarkable. It had evidently been most carefully prepared. Every element of sensationalism had been studiously eliminated from it, and except so far as the facts recited were sensational, it bore not the slightest evidence of an effort to arouse the public mind, already keenly alive to the condition of affairs on the island. Every statement made by Senator Proctor was with that clearness and precision which characterizes the handling of a problem in mathematics.

The utterances of the Senator aroused breathless interest. Every person within the sound of his voice was convinced that he was putting his observations into careful terms, lest he might subject himself to the criticism of being emotional, and through that, to the criticism of the statement made by Senator Fry, of Maine, a few minutes after his delivery. "It is," said he, "just as if Proctor had held up his right hand and sworn to it that the impression of the statement made upon the Senate."

The scene in the Senate just preceding and during the delivery of the speech was almost dramatic in the intensity of its interest. The occasion of the address arose very unexpectedly. It was a demonstration, made under discussion, and Senator Mallory, of Florida, had been recognized for a speech in opposition to the pending measure. Mr. Fry entered the chamber, and interrupting Mr. Mallory, requested him to yield to Mr. Proctor, who desired to make a statement concerning his observations in Cuba, of interest to the Senate and to the country. Instantly there was a commotion on the floor and in the galleries. It had been announced that Mr. Proctor would make a statement, but it was not supposed that he would make it on the floor of the Senate. A call of the Senate was demanded by Mr. Chandler, of New Hampshire. In a few minutes every Senator in the Capitol was in his seat, and the galleries were filled with people who had come to witness the speech.

Senator Proctor was accorded the closest attention throughout his speech. He confined himself to his manuscript, and at the conclusion, while there was a demonstration, he was cordially congratulated by many of his colleagues.

Mr. Proctor, in beginning, stated that his trip was entirely unofficial, and was not suggested by any one. Mr. Proctor said, in part:

"Of General Lee I need say little. His valuable services to his country in his trying position are too well known to all his countrymen to require mention. Besides his ability, high character, and courage, he possesses the important requisites of unfailing tact and courtesy, and withal, his military education and training, and his soldierly qualities are invaluable additions to the equipment of a representative in a country so completely under military rule as Cuba."

Senator Proctor also eulogized Consuls Brice and Barker.

"It has been stated that I said there was no doubt the Maine was blown up from the outside." "This," said he, "is a mistake. I have said that such was the general impression among Americans in Havana. In fact, I have no opinion about it myself, and I carefully avoided forming one."

Senator Proctor mentioned the places he had visited on the island, outside of Havana, where the order of concentration had been issued. He told of Weyler's order for concentration, and of the effect it had had upon the "concentrados." Continuing, he said:

"The execution of this order was left largely to the guerrillas—and I was in that had not in many cases a torch was applied to the people's homes with no notice, and the inmates fled with such clothing as they might have on, their stock and other belongings being appropriated by the guerrillas. When they were allowed to reach the towns they were left in huts of palm leaves in the suburbs and quarters within the trocha, and left to live, if they could. Their huts are about ten by fifteen feet in size, and for want of space are usually crowded together. They have no floor but the ground, and no furniture, except very few substitutes as they can extemporize. In the largest families in this little space the commonest sanitary precautions are impossible. Torn from their homes, with foul earth, foul air, foul water, and foul food, and no one to care for them, half have died, and that one-quarter of the living are so diseased that they cannot be saved. A form of dysentery is a common disease, and arises from the conditions. Children and adults are still walking emaciated and abdomen bloated to three times the natural size. The physicians say these cases are hopeless."

DEATHS FROM STARVATION.
Deaths from starvation are not uncommon. I was told by one of our countrymen that people have been found dead about the markets, where they had crawled,

ed, hoping to get some stray bits of food from the early hucksters, and that there had been cases where they had dropped dead inside the market, surrounded by food. These people were independent and self-supporting before Weyler's order. They are not beggars even now.

"Of the hospitals I need not speak. Others have described their condition far better than I can. It is not within the narrow limits of my vocabulary to describe it. But many cases of starvation and suffering had inspired and stimulated the press correspondents, and they had given free play to a strong, natural, and highly-cultivated imagination.

"I have seen a leaflet published by the Board of Missions showing cuts of cases in the hospitals, and took it with me, thinking these were actual cases. But from my own observations later, I found a few months past, from actual starvation and diseases caused by insufficient and improper food, large numbers have died."

"My inquiries were made of our medical officers, of our consuls, of city alcaldes (Mayors) of relief committees, and of leading merchants and bankers, physicians and lawyers. Several of my informants were Spanish-born, but every time the answer was that the case had not been overstated."

"General Blanco's order of November 13th last, somewhat modifies the Weyler order, but is of little practical benefit. Its application is limited to farms, 'properly defended,' and the owners are obliged to build 'centres of defence.' Its execution is completely in the discretion of the local military authorities, and they of the terrible nature of the Weyler's order in stripping the country of all possible shelter, food, or source of information for the insurgents. In fact, though the order was issued four months ago, I saw no beneficial results from it worth mentioning."

THE CUBAN POPULATION.
Speaking of the Cuban population, the Senator said: "There are, or were before the war, about 1,000,000 Cubans on the island, 200,000 Spaniards (which means those born in Spain), and less than half a million of negroes and persons of mixed blood. The percentage of colored people, while has been steadily diminishing for more than fifty years, and is not now over 25 per cent. of the total. In fact, the number of colored people has been actually diminishing for nearly a century."

"One thing that I saw was the impression of the superiority of the well-to-do Cuban over the Spaniard. In the matter of education. Among those in good circumstances, there can be no doubt that the Cuban is far superior in this respect. I saw that there are about 6,000 Spanish soldiers now in Cuba, fit for duty, out of over 20,000 that have been sent here. The rest have died, been sent home sick, are in the hospitals; and some have been killed, notwithstanding the official reports."

THE INSURGENT STRENGTH.
"Having called on Governor and Captain-General Blanco, and received his statement, I could not with propriety seek communication with the insurgents. I had plenty of offers of safe conduct to Gomez's camp, and was told that if I would write him, an answer would be returned safely within ten days at most. I saw several who had fought in the insurgent campaign, and brought out the best information received as to the insurgent force. His statements were moderate, and I was credibly informed that he was entirely reliable. He claimed that the Cubans had about 30,000 men now in the field, some in every province, but mostly in the two naval provinces of Matanzas and Havana, and this statement was corroborated from other good sources."

"They have a force all the time in Havana province itself organized as four small brigades, and operating in small bodies. Ruiz was taken, tried, and shot within about a mile and a half of the railroad, and about fifteen miles out of Havana, on the road to Matanzas, a road more travelled than any other."

"Aranguren was killed about three miles the other side of the road, and about the same distance, fifteen or twenty miles from Havana."

"The insurgents are well armed, but very poorly supplied with ammunition. They are not allowed to carry many cartridges; sometimes not more than one or two. The infantry, especially, are poorly clad."

AUTONOMY.
Senator Proctor said the army and Spanish citizens do not want autonomy, for that meant government by the Cuban people. As for the Cubans, they say that the offer of it comes too late. If it succeeds, it can only be by armed force."

"I could not but conclude," said the Senator, "that you do not have to scratch an Automist very deep to find a Cuban. There is soon to be an election, but every polling-place must be inside a fortified town."

"I have endeavored to state in no interpretative mood what I saw and heard, and to make no argument thereon, but leave every one to draw his own conclusions. To me, the strongest appeal is not the barbarity practiced by the Spaniards, but the loss of life. If war would not prove too terrible as are both of these incidents, but the spectacle of a million and a half of people, the entire native population of Cuba, struggling for freedom and deliverance from the worst misgovernment of which I have any knowledge. The fear that if true, the people of Cuba would be revolutionary is not so well founded as has been supposed, and the conditions for good self-government are far more favorable."

"But it is not my purpose at this time, nor do I consider it my province, to suggest any plan. I merely speak of the symptoms as I saw them, but do not undertake to prescribe any remedial steps as may be required. This may safely be left to an American President and the American people."

NATIONAL QUARANTINE.
At the conclusion of Mr. Proctor's statement, Mr. Mallory, of Florida, delivered an extended speech in opposition to the national quarantine bill. He held strongly that the National Government ought not to trench upon the limits of the States by invading the rights of the States to establish their own quarantine regulations. He advocated strengthening the national maritime quarantine.

"Of Georgia, maintained that the matter of quarantine was not a sectional question, all parts of the United States being liable to epidemics."

"I favor," said he, "all the prevention of epidemic, and the stamping out of diseases, and I do not favor a regulation which will deny to a State or community the right to protect itself by quarantine regulation."

Previous to this Mr. Butler, of North Carolina, made a few remarks in denunciation of the Torrey bankruptcy measure.

At 4:50, on motion of Mr. Fry, the Senate went into executive session, and at 5 o'clock adjourned adjourned.

POST-OFFICE BILL.
No political questions were discussed in the Senate today. The whole session was devoted strictly to the post-office appropriation bill, which was taken up for amendment under the five-minute rule. The questions which consumed the majority of the time were related to the appropriation for rural free delivery from \$120,000 to \$300,000, and defeated the proposition for increased clerk hire. The amendment to increase the appropriation for rural free delivery was offered by Mr. Stokes (Democrat), of South Carolina.

The House, at 5:30 P. M., adjourned.

Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup, the old reliable, will cure every case of cough or cold.

NEW NAVAL FLEET.
It is to Have Its Station at Hampton Roads.
A STRONG DEFENSIVE FORCE.
It is to Be Made Up of Battleships and Cruisers.
SIGNIFICANT SPANISH STATEMENT.
Any Demand for Indemnity for Maine Disaster Will Be "Indignantly Repelled."

REPORT FROM MAINE COURT.
The President, It is Said, Expects It To-Day or To-Morrow—A Bill Providing for Placing Army on War Footing Introduced in the House.

The event of yesterday in official circles was the issue of an order for the formation of a new squadron of naval vessels to be stationed at Hampton Roads.

It is explained that in ordering this movement, the Navy Department is by no means animated by any purpose of yielding to representations or intimations that may have come from the Spanish Minister as to alleged mischief caused by the gathering of so large a force as Admiral Seward's fleet in the vicinity of Cuba, but "on the contrary, quite the reverse," so to speak.

The fact that Hampton Roads are the best naval point strategically on the Atlantic coast is pointed out in connection with the new order.

There was given out in Madrid yesterday a semi-official statement to the effect that a demand for indemnity based on Spanish responsibility for the Maine explosion would be indignantly repelled by Spain. It is also stated in other quarters that Spain has made it clear to the authorities at Washington that intervention in behalf of Cuba may lead to war.

The President, it is said, expects the report of the Maine court of inquiry today or to-morrow.

A bill, prepared by the War Department, providing for the placing of the army on a war footing, which means recruiting it to the full strength of 100,000 men, was introduced yesterday in the House of Representatives.

It appears that, according to the latest reports, the total organized strength of the militia of the United States is 114,362 men, while the number of men available for military duty (unorganized) is 10,301,329.

NEW NAVAL SQUADRON.
It is to Be Stationed at Hampton Roads.

WASHINGTON, March 17.—The event of the day in official circles was the issue of an order for the formation of a new squadron of naval vessels, to be stationed at Hampton Roads.

The squadron in the beginning will consist of four ships, all the best of their types. Two of them, the battleships Massachusetts and Texas, are withdrawn from the present North Atlantic Squadron at Key West and Tortugas.

It would be a grave mistake to suppose that in ordering this movement, the Navy Department is animated by any purpose of yielding to representations or intimations that may have come from the Spanish Minister, as to the mischief caused by the gathering of so large a force as Admiral Seward's fleet in the vicinity of Cuba. On the contrary, the formation of the new squadron was brought about by purely strategic considerations, although it appears from the nature of the force so far under orders to rendezvous at Hampton Roads that this strategy is of a defensive nature.

The new squadron cannot be called a "flying squadron," because the association of heavy battleships with fleet cruisers like the Brooklyn, Columbia, and Minneapolis is designed, and the squadron could not do more than cruise along the coast, and make occasional raids, rather than, when reinforced by some smaller cruisers, the squadron will consist of an ideal naval force.

For the past two months influences have been at work in the Navy Department to bring about this change, and a policy board, which has been in frequent session of late at the department, it is believed that it has endorsed the plan at last.

All the ships of this squadron have not yet been definitely settled, but it is concluded that it will include some of the best of our fleet, and that it will be stationed at Hampton Roads, in which case Admiral Seward, it is believed, will command the new force.

In place of the cruiser New York, the people of Key West will look upon the grim outline of the monitor Porcupine, most formidable of the fleet, as the guardian of the whole world. She will have to assist her vanguard, the double-turreted monitor Miantonomoh. So the order, in the end, will result in the gathering of the pick of the North Atlantic squadron at Hampton Roads.

HAMPTON ROADS ADVANTAGES.
The point is said to be the best strategically on the Atlantic coast. It is almost centrally located, and the ships from that point can reach any portion of the coast in short order, which is regarded as desirable, since no one can tell just where the fleet of a fleet of heavy cruisers, or a fast cruiser may turn up. Besides, the second best navy-yard in the country is there to fall back upon for repairs. There is easy water to Hampton Roads, and the forts at Hampton Roads may serve as a base of operations in case of need for protection. These are the considerations which animated the Navy Department in making this new order.

It is announced that the commander of the new squadron has not yet been selected, and pending that selection, the arrival in port of Admiral Seward, it is said that Captain Higginson, the commander of the battleship Massachusetts, and the senior officer, will hold the command of the squadron.

Remaining at Key West after the departure of the Massachusetts and the Texas, Admiral Seward will still have a force of his own, in numbers, when the fleet is moved to Hampton Roads, a spectacle which has been presented of a fleet of ships on one station, something not seen since the civil war.

The monitors which it is designed to send to Key West are said to be well fitted for the service. Owing to the slight draught of from 15 to 16 feet, they will be able to navigate the shallow waters of the Florida coast, and will not be obliged, like the Iowa, to lie six miles out at sea from Key West, to secure enough water under the keel.

The gunboat Helix is reported to the department that she has sailed to-day from Funchal, Madeira, for Key West, to join the squadron.

It is now said that it has been definitely determined to bring the battleship Oregon around South America to Key West.

The Navy Department has issued orders that such trial as may be made of the new torpedo-boat, Rodgers, shall take place while the ship is under way Saturday next from Baltimore to Norfolk. She also will go southward, to join the flotilla at Key West.

The Columbia and Minneapolis are still each 200 men short of their full quota, but it is said that enough men will be secured in the course of the week to man the ships to be sent to Hampton Roads to execute the orders issued to-day.

The naval recruiting officers are meeting with success at New Orleans. Yesterday they secured forty men, who were professionally fitted for the navy.

SPAIN PREPARING TO BE UGLY.
The semi-official statement given out in Madrid, advancing the government's view that a demand for indemnity based on Spanish responsibility for the Maine explosion would be indignantly repelled by Spain, attracted much interest in official circles. There has been little doubt for some time that Spain was preparing for the contingency of an adverse report by the American court of inquiry, and to that end was preparing to anticipate and offset it by making clear the Spanish Government's policy of standing by the report of the Spanish commission. The report of the latter body was due in Madrid yesterday, and the government's position is not officially known, it is a foregone conclusion that it will find that the Maine disaster was due to accident resulting from an internal explosion. This was foreshadowed in the advance utterances of Captain Peral, head of the Spanish commission, who has publicly declared that the theory of external explosion was untenable.

Along with the semi-official statement from Madrid that a demand for indemnity would be indignantly repelled is the statement from other quarters that Spain has made it clear to the authorities here that intervention may lead to war.

The prospects of such intervention appear to be seriously entertained by Spain, and strong efforts have been made to avert it by showing that the condition of the reconcentrados does not warrant the step, and also that it would threaten to end all prospect of further pacific negotiations.

The two governments have been sounding each other's activity, and each has been searching for ships, but there has been little ground for objection on either side, as both have been in the same markets. The administration explains its buying of ships on the ground that Spain's attitude has been so menacing, as naturally to call for an augmented navy, while Spain has made the same view—that the activity in the United States requires suitable preparations by the Spanish navy.

The report that Spain had protested against a filibustering expedition to Porto Rico cannot be verified, as officials here say this expedition has not yet got away.

MAINE COURT REPORT.
The President expects the report of the court of inquiry into the Maine disaster today. The President and the Secretaries are resolved that no effort will be spared to maintain the secrecy of the court's decision until they themselves have fully considered the documents.

It is not known positively that the conclusion of the board are final, but if the ordinary routine of a naval court inquiry has been followed in this case, they probably are so, unless the Secretary of the Navy intends looking into the testimony so that some other investigation may be further pursued.

The largest measure of preparation yet made by the War Department to meet contingencies of the future probably, has just been completed. It is the preparation of a bill providing for the placing of the army on a war footing—that is, recruiting it to the full strength of 100,000 men. The bill has been carefully gone over by the War Department and was introduced in the House by Representative Smith, of Maryland, yesterday.

House of Representatives, yesterday, it is said, will urge it vigorously.

STRENGTH OF THE MILITIA.
In view of the possibility of a conflict with Spain, considerable interest centers just now in the strength of the militia force of the United States, which would be liable to be called upon in case of necessity.

According to the latest reports, the total organized strength of the militia of the United States is 114,362 men, while the number of men available for military duty (unorganized) is 10,301,329.

CUBAN TAX SUSPENSION.
The Spanish Minister, Senor Polo, received yesterday a communication from Captain-General Blanco, as follows:

"The Council of Secretaries, under my presidency, has resolved to prorogue in all parts of the island up to March 1, 1898, a decree of April, 1897, which suspends the payment of taxes against the suspension of the order of the Legislature, unless the insular Legislature takes special action on the subject."

The effect of this, it is explained, is to do away with the taxes on those lands which have been devastated and have become unproductive.

ARMY RECRUITING BILL.
Provision for Action in Case of War—Reorganization of Line.

WASHINGTON, March 17.—Representative Hull, of Iowa, chairman of the House Committee on Military Affairs, introduced to-day a bill reorganizing the line of the army. It is a sweeping measure, making many changes in the existing system. It makes the peace organization of each regiment of infantry, in service heretofore carried out by one colonel, one lieutenant-colonel, two majors, ten captains, twelve first lieutenants, ten second lieutenants, one sergeant-major, one quartermaster-sergeant, one chief batman, one sergeant-at-arms, one clerk, one musician, two privates, and one drummer, into two companies each, and one skeleton or unmaneuvered companies, the organized companies to be constituted as now authorized by law.

Section two provides that in time of war the President may designate one or more regiments, consisting of four companies, to be supplied by manning the two skeleton companies and by organizing two additional companies to be designated by the President, to increase the enlisted strength to not exceeding 250 total enlisted men for each infantry company; 100 total enlisted men for each cavalry troop; 100 total enlisted men for each artillery battery; 100 total enlisted men for each battery of field artillery, and 150 total enlisted men for each company of engineers. The quartermaster, commissary, and medical surgeons are to have the allowances of sergeants of their respective arms.

The rest of the bill, making provision for war emergencies, follows:

"Section 3. To facilitate the recruiting to the war strength of the troops, battalions, and companies, the President may, in time of war, authorize each or every regiment of the army to draw its recruits from any State so designated, to be designated by him; the recruits thus obtained to be credited as a part of the quota of troops called for by the United States, and to be subject to the same laws and regulations as troops raised in the United States."

"Section 4. In time of war, the President shall cause the battalions of artillery to be organized into regiments, and the field artillery, as in his judgment the exigencies of the service may require."

"Section 5. In time of war, the pay proper of enlisted men actually serving in commands operating against an enemy shall be increased 20 per cent. over and above the rate now provided by law, and in time of war no additional increased compensation shall be allowed to soldiers performing what is known as extra or special duties; provided, that no soldier who deserts shall, besides incurring the penalties now attaching to the crime of desertion, forfeit all rights to pension; and provided, further, that no bounty or money gratuity shall be paid to any deserter."

(CONCLUDED ON SECOND PAGE.)

DR. G. C. VANDERSLICE
THIS BELOVED MINISTER PASSES AWAY AT HIS HOME.
ILL FOR MORE THAN THREE WEEKS.
Though for a Time It Was Thought He Might Recover, Complications Set In and the End Came Peacefully—Sketch of His Life.

Rev. Dr. George C. Vanderslice, the beloved pastor of Union-Station Methodist Episcopal church, of this city, died at his residence, No. 715 North Twenty-fourth street, shortly after 4 o'clock last evening.

This announcement, while it will not prove altogether a surprise to the community, will carry sadness into many homes, not only in this city, but throughout the State, where, for many years, the deceased had ministered to the spiritual welfare of thousands of Christians.

Dr. Vanderslice, though he had resided here latterly only about four years, was exceedingly well known in Richmond, the place of his nativity, and his large circle of friends was by no means confined to his congregation or to his denomination. The deceased was a man of great energy. He was at the Methodist Ministers' Conference on the 21st of February, when taken ill with pleurisy. His ailment developed into pneumonia, and his condition grew alarming rapidly. A change for the better, however, came, and he was able to leave his home for a few days, but he was unable to return, and he died peacefully at his home.

HIS FAMILY.
The deceased is survived by a family of eight children—Mr. Sam P. Vanderslice, a prominent young lawyer, of Suffolk; Mrs. L. E. Vanderslice, of Suffolk; Mr. J. E. Vanderslice, of Suffolk; Mr. G. C. Vanderslice, a physician of Phoebus; Mr. Granbery E. Vanderslice, a clerk at the Merchants' National Bank in this city; and Misses Katie O. Mary V., and Grace D. Vanderslice, students at the Woman's College.

FUNERAL THIS AFTERNOON.
The funeral will take place this afternoon at 4 o'clock from the Union-Station Methodist Episcopal church, and the remains will lie in state in the church until 9 o'clock to-morrow morning, when they will be taken to Suffolk for interment.

The funeral service this afternoon will be conducted by Bishop Granbery, assisted by Rev. Drs. A. G. Brown and J. L. Lafferty.

The pall-bearers will be: Honorary—Revs. W. G. Starr, W. V. Tudor, Paul Whitehead, J. S. Lafferty, T. Mastin, Charles Hyde, J. D. Dill, E. H. Pell, and T. H. Campbell; Charles H. Hasker, John B. Brant, and Charles H. Brauer, Walter Hechler, Marshall Boyle, J. F. Woolridge, and O. D. Howard.

The session of the Union-Station Sunday school, Sunday morning, will be devoted to a memorial service, as a tribute to the dead pastor.

Other Deaths Yesterday.
Mr. George M. Cosby, one of the veterans at the Soldiers' Home, died there yesterday. Mr. Cosby was a member of Company E, Eighteenth Virginia Regiment, during the war. The funeral will be held at noon and the service will be conducted by Rev. M. D. Hoge.

The funeral of Miss Lillian Haviland, daughter of Mr. A. W. Haviland, who died Wednesday night at her father's home, No. 715 North Twenty-third street, will take place this afternoon at 4 o'clock from the Venable-Street Baptist church.

Mrs. Jane E. Perrin died yesterday at her home, on Mechanicsville turnpike. She was in the 63d year of her age. The funeral will take place at Oakwood to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock.

Victims of Chicago Fire.
CHICAGO, March 17.—Three burned and mangled bodies were to-day taken from the ruins of the building, 253 West Wacker Drive, which was destroyed by fire yesterday morning. This brings the number of known dead to six, while fourteen persons, who are reported as missing, had not been accounted for at a late hour to-night.

Another Trial of the Holland.
PERTH AMBOY, N. J., March 17.—There was another special trial of the submarine boat Holland, in Staten Island, yesterday. She was submerged, and apparently worked to the entire satisfaction of Mr. Holland, who was in charge.

Rich Benefit for an Actress.
LONDON, March 18.—Nellie Farren, one of London's old-time favorite actresses, was tendered a benefit to-day, in which all of the actors and actresses participated. The Drury Lane Theatre was crowded, and the receipts aggregated \$30,000.

THE PICTURE NOW READY.
Our Ill-Fated Warship Maine as She Looked in All Her Glory.

We are pleased to announce this morning that our handsome souvenir picture of the ill-fated battleship Maine is ready to be delivered to our readers over our counter.

It is a colored picture, 9 1/2x15, cleverly executed in every detail, and taken from an oil-painting done by F. N. Atwood in 1885, and owned by Brigadier-General H. A. Wheeler. It will be found admirably suited for framing.

In order to obtain the picture, cut out a coupon, which will be found at the bottom of the last column of the first page of the DISPATCH, and bring it with 5 cents to our counter. It must be remembered we are not mailing the picture, but it is only delivered at our counter at the above named rate.

TWO SPECIAL TRAINS.
From Richmond to the Launching.

On March 26th TWO SPECIAL TRAINS will leave Richmond, Chesapeake and Ohio Broad-Street Station, 7:15 A. M. and 8 A. M., for Newport News, to witness the launching of the Kentucky and Kearsarge. These Special Trains will leave Newport News "returning" time at 4 P. M. and the other at 5:15 P. M. ONE DOLLAR for the round trip. SPECIAL STEAMERS will leave Newport News on arrival of 8 A. M. train, and will be stationed opposite the shipyard, from which the 9 A. M. launching can be witnessed. Twenty-five cents additional will be charged on the steamers.

TRUST FUNDS.
Accidents and Uncertainties as to Their Proper Disposition Removed.

The Virginia Trust Company acts as executor, administrator, guardian, receiver, trustee, for estates, corporations, or individuals.

All accidents and uncertainties incident to trusts, etc., as administered by individuals, are altogether removed, when the company is appointed to handle the trust fund. The corporation trustee outlives the trust. The inefficiency and carelessness of individual trustees may wreck valuable estates. Wills recompiled for and kept without charge.

Firewood Cheap.
The Virginia and North Carolina Wheel Company is offering Kiln-Dried Hickory and Oak Wood in suitable lengths for cooking-pots and heaters. This wood is unsurpassed for cooking purposes, and if you use it, you will use nothing else. Drop us a card, or phone us. Old phone, 411; new phone, 1105.

If the Baby Is Cutting Teeth
be sure and use that old and well-tried remedy, Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup, for children teething, which not only soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wild colic, and is the best remedy for diarrhoea. Twenty-five cents a bottle.

WEDNESDAY CLUB.
Music Festival.

April 23rd and 24th, Gladys and the Virginia Quartet, Boston Festival Orchestra.

GEN. PANDO IS SAFE.
BLANCO SAYS SPANISH FLAG WILL ALWAYS FLOAT OVER CUBA.
A DENIAL FROM GENERAL LEE.
He Has Not Applied, and Does Not Propose to Apply, for New York Agency of White Star Steamship Line.

HABANA, March 17.—General Pando, concerning whose safety anxiety has been expressed in some circles, arrived this morning at Ciego de Avila, in the middle of the military trocha extending between Moron and Jucaro, Province of Puerto Principe.

General Blanco, at a banquet last night to the officers of the Vizcaya and the Almirante Oquendo, toasted "The King, the Queen Regent, the Army, and the Navy of Spain."

He said: "The present generation will never see another banner than that of Spain at the entrance to the Gulf of Mexico. That banner, representing civilization, progress, liberty, humanity, and religion, will be eternal, like that of the first American nation."

The sentiments were received with shouts of approval and cheers.

Admiral Manterola, responding on behalf of the navy, said: "The union, the army and navy will always be indestructible."

La Union Constitucional publishes today numerous interviews with leading politicians and other authorities on the situation. The trend of all is to the effect that there is no reason for war, but that Spain will defend her possession of Cuba, and that there is no truth in it whatever. The prominent Cubans interviewed are represented as saying that Spain can count on the support of all peaceable Creoles.

La Lucha in to-day's issue says especially that Juan M. Ceballos, of New York City, who recently visited President McKinley for an interview on the Cuban question, has no authority from, or standing in, Cuba or Spain, and asks whom does Senor Ceballos represent in Cuba?

The American yacht Buccaneer, which had been expected here to take the remainder of the congressional party north, is more than forty hours overdue at this time. It was not in sight, and there are fears that some accident has befallen her. Messrs. Money, Smith, and Cummings decided not to wait longer, and left for Key West to-day on the Aransas.

THE MAINE WRECKING.
It is hoped the wreckers will find tampions in the big guns, and if this proves the case, the guns can be saved. It is otherwise, and the marine gun has ruined the softer steel of the cores, the breech mechanism can be used in other guns. To-day another one-pounder and two of the three and one-half inch chains, all very valuable, were raised, and the swords of First-Lieutenant-of-Marines Catlin and Lieutenant W. F. Jenkins.

Two battalions of Habana volunteers are drilling in heavy artillery exercises at the Cabanas fortress.

The Vizcaya is still coaling, but it is now announced that she will probably not go to Mexico.

The Montgomery left this afternoon for Key West.

Consul-General Lee, interviewed to-day as to the report that he had applied for N. Y. Mail and Express's former position at New York agent of the White Star Line, said that he was not in a position to make any statement.

"I have not made, and do not intend to make, any application," said General Lee, "for any place of any kind. I purpose staying here to look after American interests until my own or the Spanish Government demands my recall."

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I desire to extend to my friends who so generously supported me in the recent primary my most cordial thanks for their support, and to assure those who did not vote for me that my feelings towards them are as friendly as they always have been. My friends will be sure to find me in the same old and hard work of my friends, and I find it difficult to express my appreciation of their efforts in my behalf.

It will be scarcely necessary for me to add that I shall discharge the duties of the office I hold with that fidelity and energy which I have always tried to show in the past. JOHN T. HUGHES, Sheriff of the City of Richmond.

The Weather
WASHINGTON, March 17.—Forecast for Friday: For Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina—Fair weather; cooler northerly winds.

For Georgia—Fair weather; cooler in northern portion; northeasterly winds.

THE WEATHER IN RICHMOND
YESTERDAY was cloudy during the greater portion of the day.

State of thermometer:

6 A. M. 50
9 A. M. 55
12 M. 75
3 P. M. 77
6 P. M. 75
12 night 60

Mean temperature.....60 1/2

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